

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 06363

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SOPN OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)
SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE - MOSCOW PRESS COVERAGE AND COMMENTS
BY SOVIET OFFICIALS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: DURING MOSCOW PORTION OF CODEL
PRICE VISIT TO SOVIET UNION, CODEL'S ACTIVITIES ELICITED
THREE SMALL ARTICLES IN SOVIET GOVERNMENT DAILY "IZVESTIYA"
AND ONE BRIEF FILMED SEGMENT ON NATIONAL EVENING NEWS
PROGRAM "VREMYA."

2. IZVESTIYA ARTICLES APPEARED ON MARCH 27, 28 AND 30
(SKIPPING 29TH). DRAWN ENTIRELY OR PARTIALLY FROM
REPORTS MOVED ON TASS WIRE, ARTICLES WERE FAIRLY TYPICAL
FOR EVENTS OF THIS NATURE. ON 27TH IZVESTIYA NOTED
CODEL'S ARRIVAL, ON 28TH IT GAVE BARE BONES OF VISITS
TO SUPREME SOVIET AND USA INSTITUTE, AND ON 30TH IT
CITED CODEL'S CALL ON OGARKOV AND KORNIYENKO, RECEPTION
HOSTED BY SOVIET SIDE, AND CODEL'S DEPARTURE FOR KIEV.
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THERE WAS NO OTHER NEWSPAPER TREATMENT OF THE MOSCOW
PORTION OF THE VISIT.

3. TELEVISION EXPOSURE CAME ON EVENING (9 P.M. LOCAL
TIME) NEWS SHOW MARCH 27. SHORT COLOR FILM CLIP SHOWED
CODEL'S ARRIVAL AT SUPREME SOVIET AND BRIEF GLIMPSE OF
SOVIET AND AMERICAN DELEGATIONS ASSEMBLED AROUND

CONFERENCE TABLE. NO FURTHER TELEVISION COVERAGE WAS OBSERVED.

4. AMERICAN NEWSMEN IN MOSCOW FOCUSED PRIMARY ATTENTION ON EXTRACURRICULAR MEETINGS BY MEMBERS OF CODEL WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET REFUSENIKS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. CONGRESSMAN CARR TOLD EMBOFF THAT AFTER MARCH 28 VOA ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CONGRESSMEN WERE SEEING DISSIDENTS, USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV WAS "FURIOUS WITH THE DELEGATION." CARR WENT TO USA INSTITUTE MARCH 29 FOR SOLO SESSION WITH ARBATOV AND STAFF AND HE SAID IT TOOK ARBATOV OVER A HALF HOUR TO "CALM DOWN."

6. ARBATOV AND MFA USA DIVISION CHIEF KOMPLEKTOV BOTH TOLD POL COUNSELOR MARCH 29 OF THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CONGRESSMEN'S MEETINGS WITH DISSIDENTS. ARBATOV CHARACTERIZED THE MEETINGS AS "STUPID." ARBATOV ALSO TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT VOA'S CARRYING THE STORY GAVE IT AN "OFFICIAL" STAMP OF APPROVAL AND NOTHING THE EMBASSY COULD SAY WOULD DISSUADE HIM THAT THE RAPID AND FULL VOA COVERAGE WAS NOT A SIGN OF EMBASSY AND USG APPROVAL.

7. KOMPLEKTOV SARCASTICALLY COMPLIMENTED POL COUNSELOR ON THE EXCELLENT "ASSISTANCE" THE EMBASSY GAVE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONGRESSMEN IN "THEIR APPOINTMENTS" (A REFERENCE TO EMBASSY ATTEMPT TO CONTACT SAKHAROV) AND IN FEEDING THEM QUESTIONS. TOON

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